



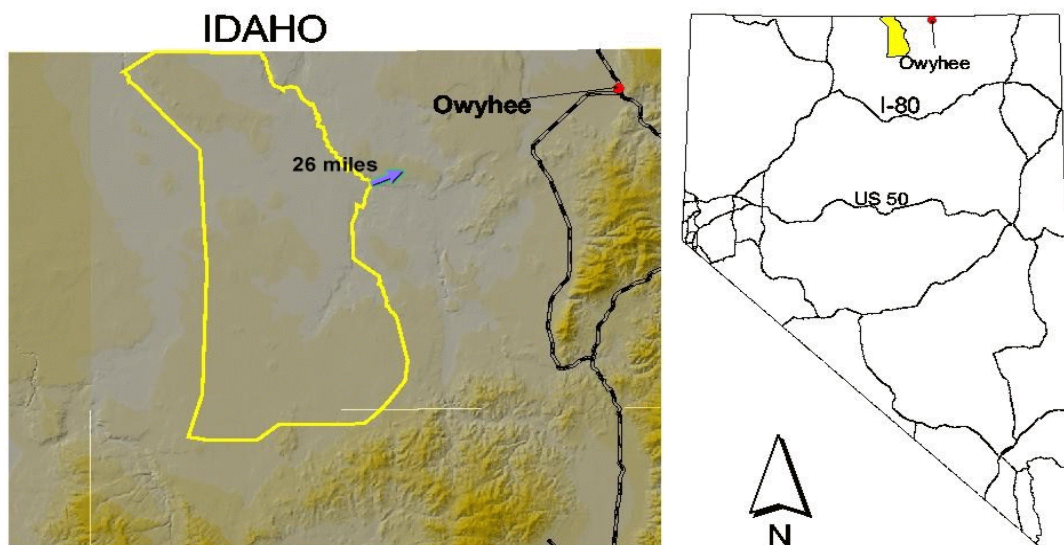
## Owyhee Herd Management Area Elko County, Nevada



### Location/Habitat

The Owyhee Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in the northwest corner of Elko County, along the Idaho-Nevada border. The majority of the HMA's boundaries are fenced; however, a few portions are formed by natural barriers. The South Fork of the Owyhee River forms the northeastern boundary of the HMA, while the Little Owyhee River forms a short section of the northwestern boundary. The total size of the HMA is 371,000 acres.

The HMA is characterized by a high rolling plateau underlain by basalt flows which are occasionally cut by deep, vertically walled canyons. Elevation ranges from about 5,100 feet in elevation to 5,600 feet. Wild horse locations within the Owyhee HMA are dependent on the availability of water. Horses in the Dry Creek pasture can normally be found in the vicinity of Corral, Shallow and Silver lakes which are seasonal lakes. When water is not available, the bands of horses move south to other man-made reservoirs and Bookkeeper Spring. In the Star Ridge Pasture, horses can be found in large concentrations on Star Valley Ridge. The ridge is close to a series of man-made reservoirs. When water is not available in the reservoirs, all of the horses must obtain water at the "pipeline" crossing in the South Fork of the Owyhee River. In the Chimney Creek Pasture, horses obtain water at the Desert Ranch Reservoir. The horse herd in the Dry Creek Pasture is the most impacted herd in the HMA during dry years. When normal water sources dry up, wild horses must travel long distances to alternate water sources. Unfortunately, they may not know where to find water when their traditional sources dry up.



There are two Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) within the HMA: the Owyhee Canyon WSA and the South Fork Owyhee WSA.

### **Vegetation**

In general, the vegetation consists of Wyoming big sagebrush, Sandberg bluegrass, squirreltail with scattered bluebunch wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass and needlegrass.

### **Herd Description**

The horses found in this HMA are quite large and have good conformation. The primary colors are sorrel, bay, brown and black, with a few palominos and paints.